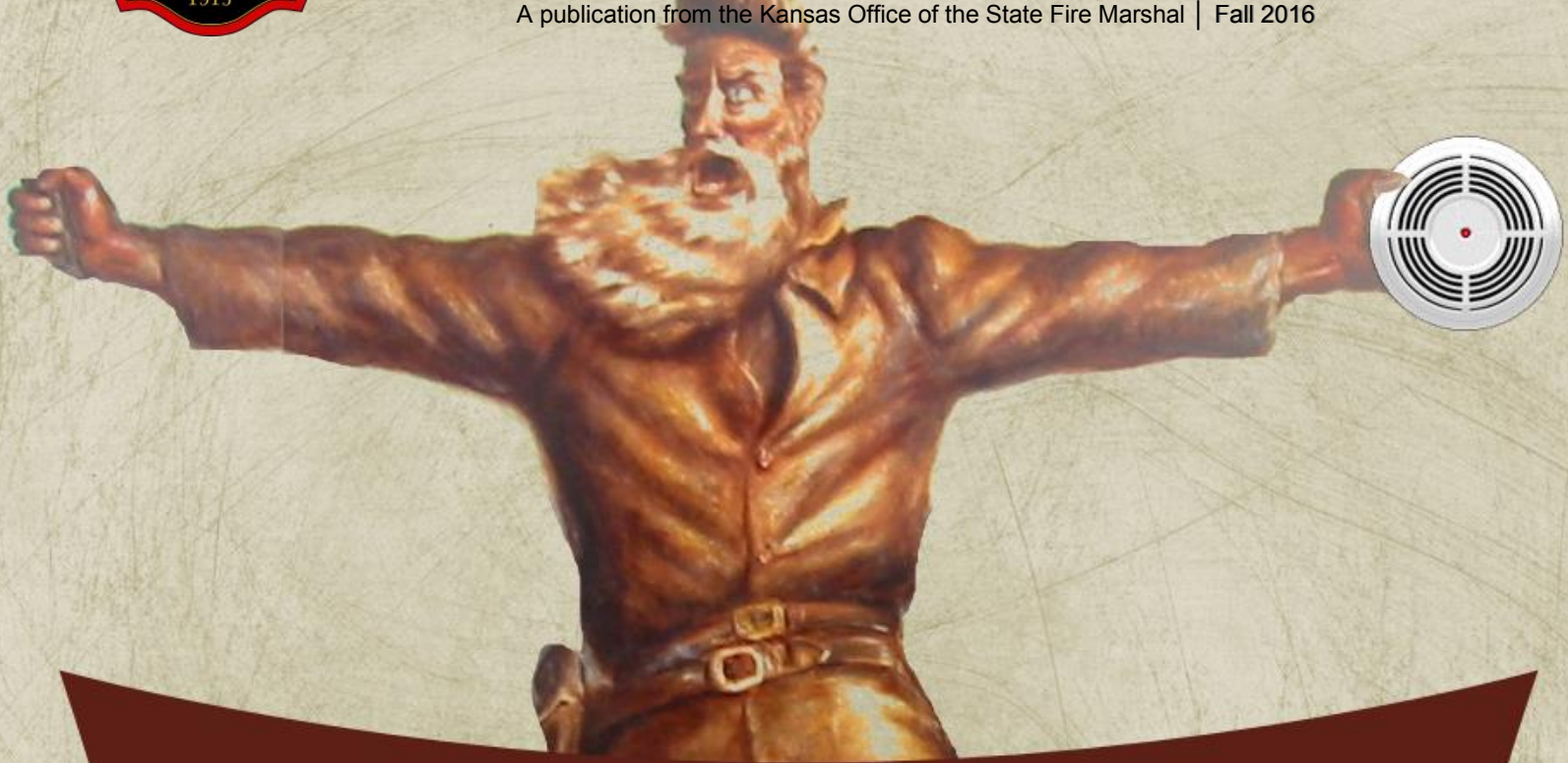




The **TRUMPET**

A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal | Fall 2016



**Smoke Alarms in every
Kansas home!
(Not a radical idea!)**

#GetAlarmedKS

Don't Wait! Check the Date! ♦ Fire Safety Poster Contest ♦ Drones in Investigation ♦
Helping Stave Off Chemical Attack ♦ Smoke Alarm Program ♦ Fall Holiday Safety

FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Honoring the Fallen

On Sunday, October 2, I was honored to speak at the Kansas Firefighter Memorial Service in Wichita. We gathered that day and in that special place to honor the 120 names engraved on the memorial wall, the brave firefighters that sacrificed personal and family time to serve their communities and ultimately gave their lives in service to all of us. We reflected on how much richer our lives are for having known and worked with them. Their readiness to respond at any hour of the day or night made them our protectors, all representing the best qualities of firefighters in the state.

Unfortunately, six names were added to the wall this year. This is a sad and daunting task, and as we work together to create a safer state for citizens and firefighters alike, we hope one which will not need to be repeated in the years to come.

Those in the fire service are our protectors, and we must honor their service by making sure they have the best equipment, most current training, and the highest emotional and medical support available. This is the least we can do to support and thank them for the job they do.

Sincerely,



Doug Jorgensen
State Fire Marshal



State Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen was the keynote speaker at the 2016 Kansas Firefighter Memorial Service in Wichita.

CONTENTS

Hot OSFM News By the Numbers	3	Get Alarmed Kansas	9
Don't Wait, Check the Date	4	Fabric of the Years	10
Fire Safety Poster Contest call-for-entries	5	Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant	11
High Tech Fire Investigation: Drones	6	Halloween Fire Safety	12
Fire Investigator School	7	Be careful cooking this Thanksgiving	13
Project Jackrabbit: OSFM helps prepare for chemical attack	8	Prescribed Fire Summit	14



HOT OSFM NEWS



OUR MISSION

The agency's mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, education, hazardous material and search & rescue incident responses.

OUR PURPOSE

To reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through:

- Inspection
- Enforcement
- Plans Review
- Fireworks and Explosives Regulation
- Investigation
- Hazardous material incident mitigation
- Public education
- Coordination of search and rescue efforts

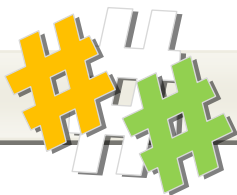
Welcome David Witzke, New Deputy Boiler Inspector

David Witzke has joined our Prevention team as a Deputy Boiler Inspector. David has spent the last 15 years working with boilers and a wide variety of large-scale equipment during his career with National Beef Packing in Liberal, Kansas.

After spending his early years in Liberal, David's family relocated to Bonner Springs where he lived until after high school graduation. He then returned to Liberal and has been working at National Beef Packing ever since.

David and his wife Sheri have an 11-year old daughter, Paige, and his hobbies include hunting, fishing, boating and all sorts of outdoor sporting activities.

"I really enjoy travel and meeting new people, and look forward to doing both of those as my position covers the western half of Kansas," David said. "I'm also excited about the opportunity to advance my knowledge in the field of boiler inspections and safety."



BY THE NUMBERS

The numbers show us that getting smoke alarms is only the first step to being safe in our homes.

Step 1 → 54% of deaths in residential fires reported no smoke alarms present.

Have smoke alarms.

Step 2 → 25% of the deaths in residences reported a smoke alarm present, but not working.

Maintain smoke alarms.

Step 3 → 56% of deaths in residences with working smoke alarms reported the occupants failed to respond to the alarm.

Know what to do if smoke alarms activate.

The TRUMPET

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Does your home have a smoke alarm? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the answer is likely yes: NFPA research shows that most American homes have at least one. But do you know how old your smoke alarms are? If you're like most people, you're probably not so sure. To increase awareness of this critical issue of public safety, Governor Brownback proclaimed the week of October 9-15 as Fire Prevention Week with the theme *"Don't wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years!"*

A recent NFPA survey revealed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced. That lack of awareness is a concern for the Office of the State Fire Marshal and fire departments throughout the state because smoke alarms don't last forever.

"A working smoke alarm can save your life, but if it has expired and is no longer effective, that smoke alarm will give you a false sense of safety," says Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal for the State of Kansas. "That's why we're

making a concerted effort to educate Kansans about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and that they do have a life limit."

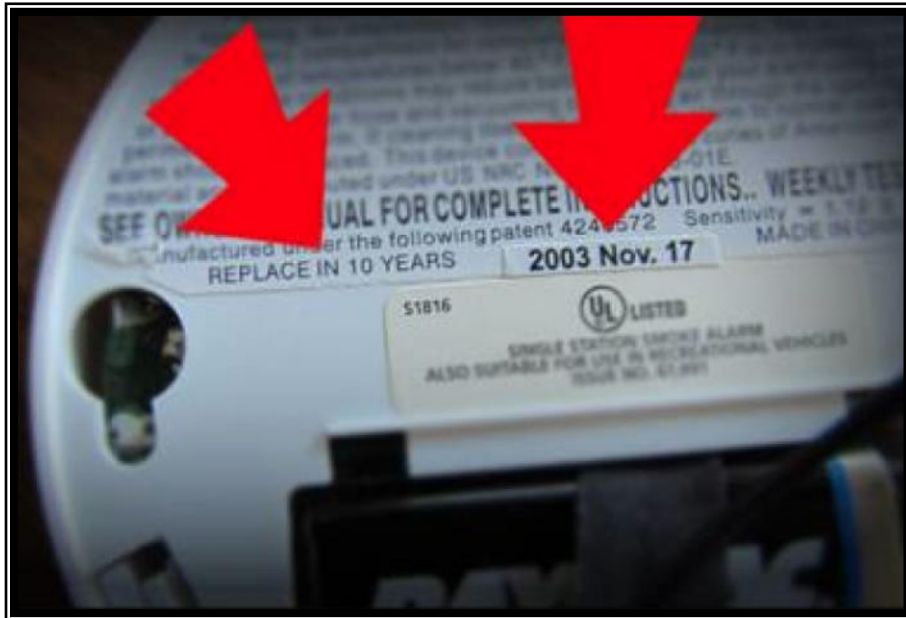
NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*®, requires smoke alarms be replaced at least every 10 years, but because the

begin to chirp, signaling that they're running low.

Fire departments throughout Kansas will be hosting activities during Fire Prevention Week to promote fire safety. Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can

learn more about the importance of having a working smoke alarm and checking for the date they were manufactured.

On Saturday, October 15, the Office of the State Fire Marshal will join with SafeKids Kansas to encourage families throughout the state to participate in Home Fire Drill Day. On this day, every family should test their smoke



public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes have smoke alarms past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk.

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, simply look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date (*not* the date of purchase). Smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and batteries should be replaced once a year or when they

alarms and practice their escape plan. Information on home fire safety, including how to diagram and practice an escape plan, is available at FireMarshal.ks.gov/firesafety.

For more information on smoke alarms and this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years", visit FireMarshal.ks.gov/fpw.



We have once again asked schools and fire departments across the state to participate in our annual Fire Safety Poster Contest.

It is crucial that our Kansas schools and fire departments promote awareness of fire prevention and fire safety to young Kansans, drawing special attention to the importance of working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives, cutting the risk of dying in a home fire in half.

For our poster contest, we encourage schools to initiate communication with their local fire departments to help educate our Kansas children about fire safety. Schools can request fire departments to share a fire safety presentation with the students before the students participate in the poster contest.

Poster contest rules and information can be found on our [website](#).

Posters will first be judged by local fire departments, and the winning local entries will then be submitted to our office where **one** winner will be chosen for **each** category. However, if the school wants to simplify things, they can always send one winner per category to the fire departments, who can then choose one winner per category from their territory to send to us for selecting the statewide winners.

All winners will be displayed in the State Capitol for a week in January. The statewide winners will be invited to meet the Governor and the State Fire

Marshal and have their pictures taken in the Governor's office.

SHOW what you know

about FIRE SAFETY

POSTER CONTEST

Open to all elementary students all across Kansas!

Categories:

K-2nd * 3rd & 4th * 5th & 6th

Schools and local fire departments pick 1 winner from each category to submit to the State Fire Marshal for final judging.

Statewide Winners...

- Meet the Governor and State Fire Marshal at the Capitol Building
- Winning posters and honorable mentions displayed at Capitol building for one week
- AND...the TOP 12 will be featured in the annual Kansas Fire Safety calendar!



Fighting a raging fire is one of the toughest battles in the public-safety world, and with no “eyes in the sky” to look down upon a scene following a fire, it can make determining the cause and origin of the blaze more difficult.

The good news is that drones are now available for helping both fire suppression efforts as well as fire investigation. The Office of the State Fire Marshal now has three quadcopter drones deployed across the state to assist in its own fire investigation and emergency response efforts as well as to support other public agencies when needed.

These unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) are able to fly over the scene of a fire to help investigators determine the cause and origin of a blaze. They can also be used during an active fire to aid local fire departments with fire suppression efforts by getting a bird-eye view of a blaze in real-time and knowing better where to channel resources.

“One of the important things on any fire scene is information,” says Michael Martin, Fire Marshal with the Topeka Fire Department. “That’s one thing that the drones can give us that sometimes we’re not able to have. It gives us that bird’s eye view, the opportunity to see where the hot

“We use the drones to look down onto the building, and we’re looking at the burn patterns from the top of the building,” says Wally Roberts, OSFM Chief of Investigations. “The images show us many things which help determine cause and origin of a fire, so the drones are just another tool in our toolbox.”

Another important potential use of drones would be in the case of a wildfire or hazardous chemical spill. Rather than sending humans into a dangerous situation, drones can be flown ahead to get an overview of the situation enabling responders to react more intelligently without putting people at unnecessary risk.



[WATCH OUR VIDEO ABOUT HOW UAV'S ARE USED FOR FIRE INVESTIGATION](#)

spots are, and the opportunity to see how the fire burned or is progressing, either in investigations or active fire.”

To help determine the cause and origin of a fire, investigators are able to use UAVs to look down upon a fire scene to identify burn patterns that would otherwise be difficult to spot from ground-level.

The OSFM now has three UAVs in its arsenal – one based in the home office in Topeka, one covering Eastern Kansas, and one covering Western Kansas. These drones are available to other public agencies in need of them, and trained personnel with the OSFM Investigation Division will respond to the scene and operate the drones.

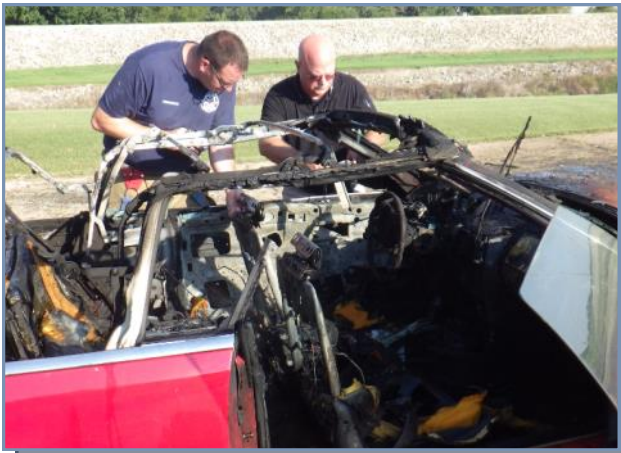
OSFM Investigators help teach Fire Investigator School



Nine OSFM investigators helped teach fire investigators at an 80-hour Fire Investigation Training coordinated by our office and International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).

A total of 22 investigators from across the state attended this intensive training, which combined classroom lectures with live fires—including structure fires and automobile fires.

The class was held in Salina Sept. 12-23.



OSFM Assists with DHS "Project Jackrabbit" Haz-Mat Tests



In 2010, in conjunction with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate, Chemical Security Analysis Center, executed a series of highly instrumented, large-scale, chemical release field trials known as Project Jack Rabbit.

Jack Rabbit developed critical data necessary to improve the modeling of toxic inhalation hazard chemicals (TIHs) released from accidents or terrorist attacks on chemical storage tanks or railcars. The impetus for Jack Rabbit

originated from congressional concerns over passage of 90-ton railcars filled with chlorine and other TIHs through metropolitan areas. Accidents resulting in loss of life from TIH releases continue to be periodic occurrences, and use as a terrorist weapon a possibility. As with the events of September 11, 2001, the use of our own infrastructure as a weapon against us is a concern. TIHs such as chlorine and ammonia are transported around the country in bulk quantities daily and totaling tens of millions of tons annually.

The OSFM was contacted by the Utah Valley University (UTU) to help procure off-the-shelf instrumentation typically utilized by emergency responders to be part of the field trials. UTU provided Subject Matter Experts (SME's) to the emergency response study conducted during the field trials. OSFM, in conjunction with Wise Safety and Environmental and RAE Systems, provided instrumentation, as well as on-site support for calibration and data collection during the field trials. The OSFM involvement was by invitation only, and is privileged to have contributed to a national DHS project.

Be Like IKE



Every Kansas home
should have smoke alarms!

#GetAlarmedKS

FREE Smoke Alarm Program

*Celebrating
2 years!*



Two years ago, the Office of the State Fire Marshal embarked upon a goal to provide smoke alarms and their installation (free of charge) to Kansas homeowners who couldn't otherwise afford them. *No Kansas home should be without a working smoke alarm.*

To celebrate our 2 year anniversary, in which nearly 2,000 free smoke alarms have been distributed and installed for free through our partner fire departments across the state, the program is being renamed "Get Alarmed Kansas!"

OSFM will support fire departments and volunteers across the state with the installation and education of long-life sealed lithium battery powered

smoke alarms. We will work together to cover as much of the state as possible.

OSFM and its partners in the program cannot give away smoke alarms or hand them out. Many who receive them forget to install them, or take the batteries out for another use and forget to replace them. Fire Departments, organizations, and volunteers who wish to participate will sign a waiver indicating the number of smoke alarms they have requested and ensuring us that they will be installed properly.

Anyone is eligible to receive an alarm at no cost; however, they must either have NO alarm present, NO working alarm, or have a manufacturer date that is 10 years old or more.

To receive a free smoke alarm, the recipient will need to provide the installer with an address and telephone. The installer will then make arrangements to get the alarm installed.

OSFM or participating Fire Departments will not supply the owners of rentals with our alarms. These property owners are required by law to have working smoke alarms installed. *"Under the Kansas statute, The Smoke Detector Act, 31-162 the owner of a structure shall supply and install all required smoke detectors."*

Dream big like Amelia!

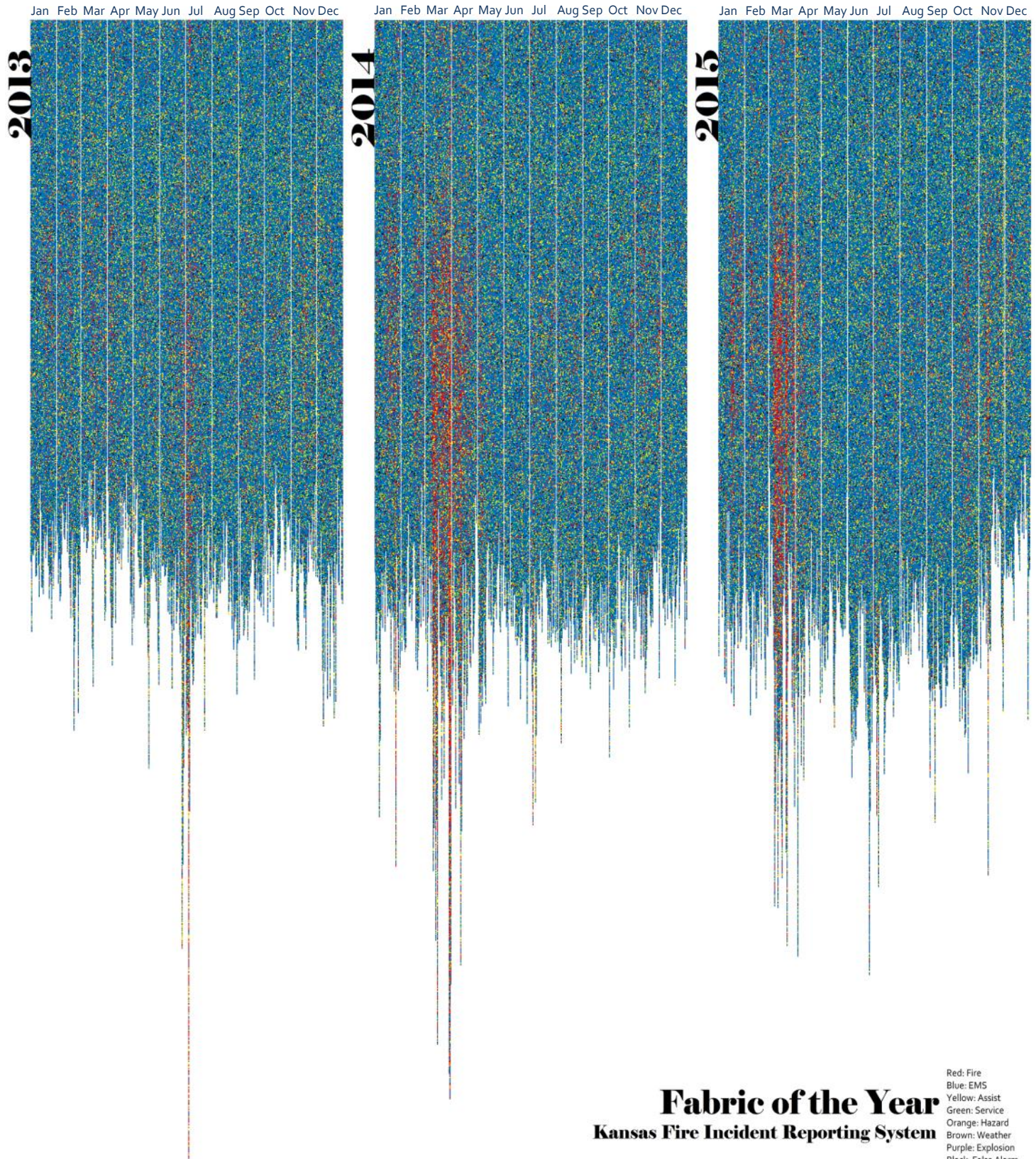
Every Kansas home should have smoke alarms!

#GetAlarmedKS



Fabric of the Years

"Fabric of the Years" orders all reported fire department calls by the alarm date and time. Each day of the year is given a column. Each call is given a color code depending on type. When viewed together, the pattern of Kansas emerges. March of 2014 was record-breaking for vegetation fires. March of 2015 was not as intense but still much larger than 2013. Lines of ice storms are visible in November of 2015 in the fire calls, mostly cooking-related. On the positive side, July 4th calls have dropped off the last few years.





Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant

Volunteer and part-time fire departments face recruitment and retention challenges because they do not have the funding to provide safety equipment. Without new equipment provided by the recruiting fire department, potential volunteers are faced with not only donating their time but also providing their own safety gear, sharing gear with others, or doing without.

This Summer our office announced the new Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KFRSG) program. This program, made possible with the 2016 State of Kansas budget passed by the state Legislature and signed by Governor Sam Brownback, is aimed at assisting volunteer and part-time fire departments across the state with firefighter recruitment.

This grant program, administered by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, will include \$200,000 from the Fire Marshal Fee Fund. Safety gear which can be purchased through this grant program based on a proven and demonstrated need includes bunker gear, fire helmets, fire boots, and new masks for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units for newly hired department

members.

This grant program not only addresses safety of firefighters, but their health as well. The OSFM will now be able to provide grants to local firefighters to assist in paying for physical examinations not otherwise covered by their departments. In the most recent two years alone, the last three line-of-duty deaths in the Kansas Fire Service resulted from heart attacks before and after responses to fire calls, or during training. A physical examination by a doctor could identify underlying health issues and, hopefully, decrease the number of health-related deaths.

The OSFM will also use grant funds to purchase and strategically place washer-extractor machines throughout the state. It is vital to the health of firefighters to properly clean personal protective gear following a fire to prevent the transfer of carcinogens, particulates and biohazards to firefighters, and those they serve. Further, as more and more particles attach to protective gear and chemicals remain on clothing, that gear gradually loses its effectiveness—putting firefighters at increased risk.

As the goal for the KFRSG grant program is firefighter recruitment, providing funding for the start of Explorer programs offers a great way for local fire departments to give the youth of their area an opportunity to explore both career and voluntary opportunities in the fire service. Volunteer and part-time fire departments will be able to apply for funding to cover the initiation fees for the Explorer program or the National Volunteer Fire Council National Junior Firefighter Program, plus a \$100 start-up fund.

Grant applicants must be established and recognized volunteer or part-time Kansas fire departments in good standing with OSFM or a firefighter in good standing with their local fire department. All safety gear purchased through the program would become the property of the requesting department and not of the individual for which it was requested.

Grants requests were accepted through October 1 and award letters to those whose requests are approved will follow shortly.

HALLOWEEN

Fire Safety for your Family

As the end of another year comes upon us, the holiday season is just beginning. One of many people's favorite holidays is Halloween. Kids get to dress up as their favorite super hero, or maybe a princess. Ghosts and goblins roam the streets, and hopefully there are more treats than tricks! It's not just the kids' holiday... adults have just as much fun dressing up and decorating their houses and yards. Glowing jack-o-lanterns, hay bales, cornstalks, bed sheet ghosts and much more make up a haunted Halloween neighborhood.

While all of these decorations are a part of a fun and harmless Halloween, they can also turn into something far more frightening than any ghost or zombie: a fire. According to the NFPA (www.nfpa.org) Fire Analysis & Research Division, during the five year period of 2006-2010, decorations were the item first

ignited in an estimated average of 900 reported home structure fires per year. Nearly half of decoration fires in homes occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source. 41% of these incidents were started by candles



and began in the living room, family room, or den. These fires caused an estimated average of one death, 41 injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year. But with the proper precautions, your decorations can be the talk of the neighborhood for all of the right reasons!

- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from

open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and candles.

- Use a battery-operated candle or glow stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use real candles, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. Be sure to place lit pumpkins away from anything that can burn and away from steps and walkways.
- Keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Make sure all smoke alarms and fire extinguishers are in good working condition.

- Make sure your family has a fire evacuation plan in place and that all children know the plan and where to meet.

-Joel Beckner, Education Consultant



Careful cooking helps you have a *Happy Thanksgiving*

On Thanksgiving Day, Kansas families will be coming together for a time of celebration and thankfulness. The hours spent in the kitchen preparing turkey, mashed potatoes, pies and all the other fixings, however, comes with an increased risk for household fires.

Cooking is, and has long been, the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries, and according to the records collected from reporting fire departments in Kansas, home cooking fires increase significantly around the times of major holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Easter.

In 2014, Thanksgiving Day was the second busiest cooking fire day across the State of Kansas. In 2015, one-in-three house fires was cooking-related resulting in 34 civilian injuries, nine firefighter injuries and two civilian deaths.

Overall, according to the Annual Report for the Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System, 28% of structure fires in 2014 started in the kitchen with a reported \$4,263,469 in damage, three deaths, and 28 civilian injuries.

“With Thanksgiving being such a hectic holiday, with all the activity and guests in a home, it can be easy to get distracted and lose track of what is cooking in the oven and on the stovetop,” said Doug Jorgensen, Kansas Fire Marshal. “We encourage all Kansans to take common sense precautions to prevent a fire tragedy on their holiday.”

Please follow these safety tips for cooking on Thanksgiving:

- Keep an eye on what you fry. Always stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food. If you have to leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Keep things that can catch fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels and curtains away from the cooking area.
- Be alert when cooking. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Consider installing an automatic suppression unit attached magnetically to stovetop hoods. Shaped like small tuna cans, these units automatically put out fires

when flames reach the hood.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire:

- Do *not* throw water on a grease fire.
- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire: Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.
- The Kansas Fire Marshal also discourages the use of turkey fryers which can lead to devastating burns and the destruction of property due to the large amount and high temperature of oil used. Those who prefer fried turkey should look for grocery stores, specialty food retailers and restaurants that sell deep-fried turkeys.

SMOKE ALARMS IN EVERY KANSAS HOME?

That should be a slam dunk!



#GetAlarmedKS

Save the Date for:
Prescribed Fire/Wildfire Summit
Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan, KS
December 7th-9th

Who Should Attend?
PBA members
Landowners
Firefighters
Agency personnel
Extension
Anyone interested in fire

Topics to include:
Fire History of the Great Plains
Smoke Issues
Fire Success Stories
State PBA reports
Future Directions for Fire
Fire Policy
Partnerships using Fire
Fire Weather



More information
coming soon!



Joshua Bradley